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- a) ***USGS Preparation of Libby Testing Material.*** USGS has collected, and done initial characterization of LA bearing material from the Libby mine. The full preparation of the testing material is now on hold, pending work at RTP to test different size separation techniques for producing respirable fibers. Once this is done USGS will thoroughly characterize material from the Libby mine and prepare the testing material (under an Interagency Agreement with Region 8). This material will be used in the ORD/NHEERL laboratory animal toxicity studies and the analytical method studies.